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President: Mr. Lauber (Vice-President) ..... (Switzerland)

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In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr. Lauber (Switzerland), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Opening of the segment

1. **The President**, opening the humanitarian affairs segment on the theme "Restoring humanity and leaving no one behind: working together to reduce people's humanitarian needs, risk and vulnerability", said that the segment was a unique platform for an open discussion that could help the international community to reach a better understanding of the operational challenges facing humanitarian assistance. It also provided a major opportunity to debate possible solutions to tackle those challenges.

2. Three high-level panels would be held during the course of the segment: the first would seek to build an understanding of new ways of working that reduced need, risk and vulnerability, and to reflect on outcomes stemming from the World Humanitarian Summit recently held in Istanbul, Turkey; the second would reflect on forced displacement issues and discuss practical ways to move forward; and the third would elaborate on impediments to the protection of civilians in armed conflict and build momentum for action and change.

Agenda item 9: Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance (A/71/82-E/2016/60)

3. **The Deputy Secretary-General**, recalling that the Secretary-General had once said that the global commitment to humanitarian action was one of humanity's highest moral achievements, said that the need to show compassion and uphold human dignity was a more urgent challenge than ever: record numbers of people were in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. Nevertheless, there was a tangible sense of fatigue, even resignation, manifested in the greatest shortfalls ever in the funding needed for those people. Partly for that reason, the Secretary-General had convened the World Humanitarian Summit and had presented his Agenda for Humanity (A/70/709, annex). The five core responsibilities set out therein went beyond meeting humanitarian needs. The Secretary-General had recognized that by bringing together the different strands of the work of the United Nations, those needs could be reduced and ultimately eliminated. However, that would only be achieved by working horizontally.

4. For the first time in the 70-year history of the United Nations, at the World Humanitarian Summit, Governments had sat together with people affected by crises, humanitarian and development organizations, and leaders from civil society and the business community, to discuss solutions to shared challenges. Those who were in Istanbul knew that it was a very special event, which channelled the best of the humanitarian spirit towards the new thinking and creative solutions required. The Summit had been attended by 93 per cent of the membership of the United Nations: 180 Member States. Together with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the business community, they had generated around 3,000 commitments to action.

5. Highlighting the major achievements of the Summit, he said that it had marked a clear demonstration of leadership and political will to address the terrible costs and causes of crises. International humanitarian and human rights leaders had recognized that most humanitarian crises needed political, not humanitarian solutions. The leaders had pledged to support international humanitarian law and to enhance the protection of civilians in conflicts.

6. However, there was no room for complacency. Despite many affirmations, there had been few concrete commitments to preventing and ending conflict. Work was needed to turn words into actions, in order to make a real difference for millions of refugees and civilians caught up in conflict.

7. The Summit had consolidated important shifts in global humanitarian action within the broader political, peacekeeping and development contexts. There had been overwhelming recognition that the needs of people in humanitarian crises and fragile situations were intertwined with the need for equitable development, political security and respect of human rights. That was a key challenge to one and all.

8. One of the greatest shifts had been the commitment to transcend the divide between humanitarian and development work. The Secretary-General and eight United Nations agencies had committed to a groundbreaking new way of working, based on achieving collective outcomes over longer timelines. The new approach would not only meet people's needs, it also aimed to reduce risks and

vulnerability over time, and to maximize the benefits of action by the United Nations.

9. Participants at the Summit had recognized the need to reinforce the critical role of local and national actors and had committed to increase collaboration, support and resources to those closest to the realities on the ground.

10. The Summit had generated several new partnerships and initiatives: multilateral development banks had come together to increase investment in fragile States and communities; donors had met with city mayors and urban leaders to find and fund local solutions; the private sector had formed coalitions to bring business skills and resources to people before and after crises; and international and Southern NGOs had agreed on a charter to strengthen local response. Those partnerships bridged traditional divides, brought together diverse actors and provided the means to better meet unprecedented challenges.

11. Major concrete steps had been taken to support the most vulnerable and to deliver on the promise to leave no one behind contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Leaders had announced increased programming and funding to enable women and girls to take on roles as leaders and decision makers, and to address the risk of gender-based violence. Other commitments would give people displaced for long periods enhanced opportunities to learn and support themselves and their families.

12. The Summit had also marked a clear shift in terms of financing, recognizing that there must be a move away from short-term to longer-term financing and investment, which would reduce risk, prevent and respond to crises and build resilience. Clear commitments had been made to multi-year financing in order to diversify the funding base, increase the reach of the Central Emergency Response Fund and improve efficiency through cash programming. Key aid agencies and donors had also agreed on steps to improve the effectiveness of their response.

13. The Secretary-General had described the Summit as a turning point. The next steps would be for all involved, including the United Nations family, to implement their commitments, develop initiatives and alliances, and turn pledges of support into action. Initial analysis of the commitments made at the Summit would be available shortly and a full compendium would be publicly accessible through a web-based platform in the coming months. That would provide transparency and a way for stakeholders to self-report on the implementation of their individual commitments.

14. Long-term engagement would also be necessary. Transformation would take time and efforts. The aim was to improve the understanding of the solutions outlined in the Agenda for Humanity, and to work with all stakeholders to secure their continued commitment. Country ownership would of course be a central concept.

15. It was vital to continue to champion and live up to the five core responsibilities. Limited improvements would not be sufficient for the scale of the change needed. It would be important to break out of silos, to find a new level of cooperation and to use every chance to work together for change. Opportunities to build on the Summit's achievements in 2016 would be provided by the forthcoming high-level political forum on sustainable development, the General Assembly high-level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

16. Progress needed to be assessed and measured. An annual report would provide an update on the developments and gaps in advancing the core responsibilities of the Agenda for Humanity. Periodic assessments would be important as a follow-up to the Summit and to fulfil the pledge made in the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. In his upcoming report on the Summit, the Secretary-General would propose ways to maintain the momentum and to advance the Agenda for Humanity and its five core responsibilities. He looked forward to the active cooperation of Member States in that endeavour.

17. During the five weeks since the Summit, thousands of people had been killed in conflict and tens of thousands more had been forced from their homes. Thousands of farmers and pastoralists had given up hope of making a living on land destroyed by drought, floods or sea level rise related to climate change. There was no room for delay; every day and week counted. The international community must act with urgency, tenacity and solidarity to deliver the changes proposed and initiated at the World Humanitarian Summit.

18. **Mr. Ulusoy** (Observer for Turkey) said that, as well as extending humanitarian assistance globally as a donor, Turkey hosted millions of refugees and thus knew from experience that the current humanitarian system could no longer adequately respond to today's humanitarian crises. As the host Government for the World Humanitarian Summit, Turkey had shared its ideas and experiences throughout the Summit with a view to bringing about a transformative change in the global humanitarian system, most notably by complementing humanitarian action with crisis prevention measures; providing development-oriented humanitarian assistance to address recurrent and protracted crises; and assisting refugees through predictable, reliable and sustainable humanitarian financing and fair burden-sharing. Turkey had announced its support for the five core responsibilities set out in the Agenda for Humanity and had made numerous national commitments.

19. Turkey had advocated from the outset that the Summit should not be a one-time event and that it required a clearly defined follow-up. It was crucial to build on the global momentum generated by the Summit and to work in close and genuine partnership with all stakeholders in order to improve the collective response to humanity in line with shared responsibilities. He hoped that the one-sentence reference to the World Humanitarian Summit in the draft resolution on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (E/2016/L.20), to be adopted by the Council at the end of the current segment, reflected the strong commitment of Member States to pursue the Summit process accordingly. It was high time for the present humanitarian system to be shaped in a more sustainable way for the future of humanity, so that the suffering of millions of innocent people could be alleviated through holistic policies that encompassed development as well as addressing the root causes and push factors of crises.

20. *A short video screened at the closing of the World Humanitarian Summit was shown.*

21. **Mr. O'Brien** (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (A/71/82-E/2016/60), said that the current humanitarian affairs segment was particularly important, both because the number of people who depended on humanitarian assistance was the largest ever and because, following the World Humanitarian Summit and the major global frameworks agreed in the last year, there was now an unprecedented opportunity to address the outrageous level of humanitarian need.

22. More must be done politically to reduce the rising number of people requiring international humanitarian assistance, including the 65 million who were displaced worldwide, through programme design and by accepting that most displaced persons required a longer-term, sustainable approach. In the face of protracted conflicts in Syria, the Sudan, Iraq and beyond, humanitarian agencies, Governments, civil society, affected communities and the private sector had done their utmost to continue helping millions the world over, advocate for more funding and improve effectiveness and efficiency. In the last year, the humanitarian community had improved its risk analysis and assessment of needs, had enhanced its accountability and had forged stronger working relationships with a more diverse set of actors. Yet, despite strengthened efforts, the growing demand could not be met. The humanitarian community should aim not just to meet the needs of people year after year, but also to significantly reduce needs, risk and vulnerability over time.

23. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change were testament to the tremendous progress made by the global community to address the needs, risks and vulnerabilities of people worldwide. The World Humanitarian Summit had built on that global momentum and the humanitarian affairs segment provided an opportunity to continue to reflect on, debate and suggest ways forward, ensuring that collective and individual commitments became a reality and improved people's lives.

24. There were three areas where the global community needed to urgently move forward, the first being the crisis in the protection of civilians. Civilian deaths and suffering had continued unabated because of the blatant and shocking lack of respect for international humanitarian and human rights law. More must be done to ensure that parties to a conflict complied with international law and were held to

account when they did not. Health-care workers must be better protected in armed conflicts and measures must be implemented to minimize harm to civilians in urban areas that had become open conflict zones.

25. The second area was the growing global crisis of forced displacement. At the World Humanitarian Summit, it had become clear that forced displacement was not only a pressing humanitarian issue but, first and foremost, a development and political challenge. There had been a resolve to pursue a new approach to displacement that would include meeting the immediate, life-saving and protection needs of refugees and internally displaced persons, while stepping up support for their longer-term needs and supporting host communities.

26. Third, ways of working must be adjusted in line with current contexts. Short-term aid did not fit long-term situations. Programming must be adapted to contribute to longer-term, positive outcomes that put people on the path to sustainable development. The humanitarian community needed to work better together with a wide range of stakeholders in order to pursue collective outcomes that, over multiple years, significantly reduced people's risk and vulnerability. Development action needed to have an even greater focus on those two aspects. The Commitment to Action launched at the World Humanitarian Summit would move the humanitarian community in the right direction to work horizontally, not just in silos or vertically. The new way of working would also require a much greater investment in local, national and regional leadership, capacity-building and response systems.

27. A major outcome of the Summit had been the recognition of the role of local communities and first responders in preventing and responding to crises, and significant commitments had been made in that regard. The right financial architecture would be needed to support work towards collective outcomes and the reinforcement of local and national capacities. That would require a shift from funding individual projects to funding the achievement of outcomes or results, directing more funding to local and national actors, and promoting early action by development actors.

28. **Ms. Chartsuwan** (Observer for Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the imperative to leave no one behind was particularly relevant in the context of current humanitarian crises. General Assembly resolution 46/182 remained the global framework for coordinating humanitarian assistance, but coordination efforts must be intensified in order to support States in delivering assistance to their communities effectively.

29. Humanitarian emergencies caused by natural disasters were just as important as those arising from man-made conflicts. Natural disasters could reverse development gains overnight, and often resulted in displacement as well as loss of life. With regard to protracted crises, States must fully meet their obligations under international humanitarian law, in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories. The United Nations and the international community should take further action in that regard.

30. Humanitarian needs could be reduced through crisis prevention and preparedness, and the Group called for additional, predictable and innovative humanitarian financing from all sources, including other Member States, organizations and the private sector, to help developing countries build resilience and self-sufficiency. International cooperation and support should seek to strengthen local and national mechanisms, rather than undermine or replace them, so that national and international efforts could become mutually reinforcing and drive positive change. Humanitarian action must be guided by the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and by respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty.

31. The Group was particularly concerned by an increasing blurring of the lines between humanitarian assistance and development. It was surely possible for humanitarian and development actors to work more closely together while performing their respective roles effectively.

32. The draft resolution to be adopted contained many new elements and was closely linked to the core interests of the Group, which had played an active role in the negotiations and had represented the majority of developing countries. Protecting and assisting humanity was a common goal that could only be achieved through effective coordination.

33. **Ms. Ploumen** (Observer for the Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Albania and Serbia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the

convening of the World Humanitarian Summit had been particularly timely since humanitarian needs had reached an all-time high. States members of the European Union had supported the preparatory process and had made collective and individual commitments. However, the pledges made at the Summit were merely a starting point and the European Union sought concrete progress on each of the five core responsibilities. The Summit should also mark the beginning of implementation of the Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity.

34. The European Union was committed to the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence and to ensuring full compliance with international humanitarian law. Nonetheless, humanitarian efforts were not a substitute for decisive political action to prevent conflicts. The European Union was also committed to leaving no one behind, which meant taking into account the specific needs and capacities of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, and highlighted the endorsement of the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action at the Summit. It also welcomed the report of the High-level Panel on Humanitarian Financing and the "grand bargain" agreed upon by donors and implementing agencies.

35. The European Union was determined to address the root causes of the global refugee crisis and would be implementing a framework on forced displacement aimed at helping people move from aid-dependence to self-reliance. The European Union and its member States would strengthen their partnerships by working more closely with local actors and generating more synergies between humanitarian and development work.

36. Follow-up to the Summit should be inclusive, transparent and efficient. No new structures should be created; rather, the existing processes should be better exploited. It was also important to reflect on possible improvements within the United Nations system.

37. **Mr. Scott** (Australia) speaking also on behalf of Indonesia, Mexico, the Republic of Korea and Turkey, said that the humanitarian affairs segment, which was taking place against a backdrop of unprecedented levels of human suffering, provided a unique opportunity to make progress on the humanitarian policy agenda. The five countries were contributing to three of the panel discussions during the segment, bringing a cross-regional perspective to the deliberations.

38. At the World Humanitarian Summit, the representatives of the five countries had discussed the impact of global humanitarian emergencies on their regions and had considered effective responses. Their joint commitments had been announced at the Summit and they looked forward to the report of the Secretary-General on the Summit outcomes and to fulfilment of the pledges made.

39. Their Governments would continue to support accelerated implementation of the Sendai Framework in their regions and would work to ensure the success of the fifth session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in May 2017. They were also committed to supporting gender equality and worked closely with local and national women's groups.

40. In terms of building on the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda and at the Summit, the five countries would continue to emphasize respect for humanitarian principles and to prioritize bridging the humanitarian-development divide, which would deliver sustainable results on the ground.

41. **Mr. Gentiloni** (Italy) said that his country was firmly committed to enhancing the effectiveness of humanitarian aid and its priority was to foster the development of a far more integrated approach that covered State actors, non-governmental actors and beneficiaries.

42. Italy stood ready to defend and promote the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. Within the United Nations system, it would contribute to responding to complex emergencies and to efforts to improve coordination between humanitarian and development action, in particular in West Africa and in countries affected by the Syrian crisis and by El Niño. On the financial side, Italy had pledged at the World Humanitarian Summit to make a substantial increase in its humanitarian budget and its non-earmarked contributions. It would also double its contribution to the Central Emergency Response Fund in 2016.

43. Italy remained committed to continuing its search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean, which had saved hundreds of thousands of lives. Nevertheless,

humanitarian action could never be a substitute for political solutions. A long-term response to the migration crisis was needed, as was a shift in European attitudes to migration to counter the narrative of fear that threatened the future of the European Union itself. It was therefore vital to invest in the integration of migrants and involve civil society. At the same time, the root causes of migration needed to be addressed and in that regard Italy had put forward the idea of a "migration compact" between the European Union and Africa.

44. **Ms. Wallström** (Sweden) said that countries needed to work together to overcome the current challenges, which placed three kinds of partnerships at the heart of humanitarian policy and assistance.

45. First, as bilateral, regional and international actors, it was important to support local capacity, rather than try to replace it. From Ecuador to Nepal, national actors had proven they could respond effectively to natural disasters and show strong leadership. Sweden supported United Nations country-based pooled funds for that reason and had taken such an approach when working with African partners to tackle the El Niño crisis.

46. Second, political partnerships within the General Assembly and the Security Council were crucial for addressing the root causes of conflict, such as poverty and climate change. More investment in conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction was needed. For its part, Sweden would build on its long-term humanitarian work at the United Nations and its role as the Co-Chair of the Dialogue on Humanitarian Partnership.

47. Third, humanitarian cooperation between donors and their implementing partners must be based on trust, accountability and increased unearmarked core funding. Sweden was a strong contributor to the Central Emergency Response Fund and supported the Secretary-General's call to increase the Fund to $1 billion.

48. With sufficient political will and stronger partnerships, it would be possible to make a difference in people's lives. Nonetheless, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of support was also vital and had been the aim of the High-level Panel on Humanitarian Financing and the "grand bargain". In 2015, almost 75 per cent of funding had come from just 10 donors. Larger contributions and more donors were needed.

49. **Mr. Scott** (Australia) said that the number of forcibly displaced persons had reached an unprecedented level and it was time to implement the many commitments made over the previous 18 months. More needed to be done to prevent and resolve conflict, to address its root causes and to achieve sustainable peace. The ramifications of continued inaction and crisis were felt particularly acutely by those seeking asylum in neighbouring countries and their hosts.

50. The World Humanitarian Summit had led to a powerful consensus regarding the need to take a people-centred approach and had shown that everyone must pull together to tackle humanitarian crises. The current system was struggling to remain relevant and the way assistance was planned, funded and delivered was in need of reform. Differentiating between protracted conflicts, refugee crises and natural disasters would ensure that scarce resources were appropriately channelled. Better mechanisms for coordinating between the humanitarian, development and peace and security pillars of the United Nations would lead to greater efficiency.

51. The "grand bargain" launched at the Summit consisted of key commitments to reform that must be met, in particular regarding multi-year predictable financing, reduced earmarking and greater support to local first responders. The ideas, networks and assets of the private sector were often underutilized, and Australia had been pleased to support innovations such as the Global Humanitarian Lab.

52. An unwavering commitment to leaving no one behind meant ensuring the full inclusion of all groups, in particular women, youth and civil society. Australia had endorsed the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and urged other countries to do likewise.

53. **Mr. Minami** (Japan) said that with the world facing an unprecedented flow of forcibly displaced persons and the humanitarian funding gap larger than ever, humanitarian issues had become a priority for the United Nations. His Government had supported the World Humanitarian Summit from the beginning, and, in conjunction with the Government of Indonesia and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, had held one of the first regional consultations

to prepare for the Summit, in Tokyo in 2014. Cooperation with development organizations, NGOs and the private sector had become essential in recent years as crises had become more protracted and complex, and the Summit had allowed the views of many stakeholders to be reflected in common outcomes. Regardless of Member States' views on their participation in the process, they should implement the Summit recommendations to better serve people in need.

54. Strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus was essential, since crises often resulted from poverty and inequality. Those affected needed education and training, and the development of the communities that accepted displaced persons must be supported. At the Summit, his Government and the Solutions Alliance had held a side event on collaboration between the humanitarian and development sectors. The resulting joint statement had emphasized the need for meaningful participation by the most affected; the inclusion of forced displacement issues in development plans; the marshalling of the comparative advantages of both sectors; the development of a common vision through joint analysis; and the understanding that such collaboration was integral to peace and security. No new mechanism should be established to follow up on the Summit; existing forums were best placed to do so. He welcomed the "grand bargain" launched at the Summit, and the agreement reached on the draft resolution for adoption by the Council. People must be placed at the centre of humanitarian assistance, silos must be broken down, and real changes must be made on the ground.

55. **Mr. Barar** (Observer for Turkey) said that the segment was the first intergovernmental opportunity to follow up on the World Humanitarian Summit. Recent increases in the number of refugees and the effects of the Ebola epidemic showed that humanitarian crises now transcended borders and could not be addressed with the limited funding available. In the spirit of solidarity that had prevailed at the Summit, the international community must act to reduce human suffering.

56. The human, economic and social costs of the Syrian refugee crisis were colossal, and the world had a collective responsibility to address the causes and consequences of the conflict. His Government took an open-door policy towards Syrian refugees, ensured that they were protected and provided them with health care and education. It had helped to stem illegal crossings of the Aegean Sea and establish legal migration routes through an agreement with the European Union. The high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, to be held in September 2016, would foster a shared, comprehensive response to such crises and help Member States follow up on their World Humanitarian Summit commitments related to displacement and leaving no one behind. Turkey would help not only displaced persons on its borders but all those affected by disasters and conflicts.

57. Humanitarian crises could be eliminated only through a sustainable, holistic approach that addressed recurrent and protracted crises and, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change and other environmental challenges. That was the main philosophy behind his Government's policy, which was based on a combination of humanitarian and development assistance. Turkish official development assistance had increased to $3.91 billion in 2015, and his Government stood ready to share its expertise in overcoming the humanitarian-development divide. It had incorporated the Goals into its national development plans and would ensure that all stakeholders contributed to achieving and reviewing them.

58. At the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, held in Antalya, Turkey, in May 2016, the global commitment to meeting the needs of the least developed countries, which was essential to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, had been reaffirmed. In holding the review, Turkey had shown its increasing contribution to global problem solving and international development cooperation.

59. **Mr. Sauer** (Finland) said that his delegation was concerned about the constant increase in humanitarian needs, protracted conflicts and violations of international humanitarian law. It was committed to saving lives and reducing suffering through principled, needs-based humanitarian aid. Because political problems could not be solved through humanitarian means, the international community must invest more in prevention and leadership to end conflicts and improve compliance with such law. The Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, launched at the World Humanitarian Summit, had been endorsed by 150 stakeholders; members of

the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and other organizations had undertaken to develop global guidelines on such inclusion. His Government was committed to the guidelines and called on stakeholders to implement the Charter. It had already implemented many aspects of the "grand bargain"; provided more than 30 per cent of its humanitarian financing as unearmarked core funding; and supported harmonized reporting, multi-year financing agreements and the Central Emergency Response Fund. An inclusive, transparent approach was essential to the success of the "grand bargain". The rights and needs of women and girls, who were often worst affected in crises, must be at the centre of humanitarian action. Gender equality and women's empowerment were essential to improving humanitarian assistance. Such rights were non-negotiable and must be respected everywhere.

60. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that a record 130 million people needed humanitarian assistance, while conflicts and natural disasters had resulted in the forcible displacement of 65 million people. Although inter-agency appeals for assistance had raised $20 billion, the humanitarian funding gap had increased to $10 billion per year. At the World Humanitarian Summit, her Government had announced commitments related to the core responsibilities set out in the report of the Secretary-General for the Summit (A/70/709). It welcomed the emphasis on addressing the causes of displacement and forced migration, and the international community's commitment to resolving and preventing conflicts, strengthening disaster risk reduction in developing countries and bridging the humanitarian funding gap. Her Government supported the Secretary-General's call for the volume of the Central Emergency Response Fund, which had saved countless lives, to double by 2018.

61. Pakistan, which was prone to recurring long-term natural disasters, including the earthquake of 2005 and the floods of 2010 and 2011, had hosted 3 million Afghan refugees for four decades. Given the resulting strain on the country's socioeconomic fabric and political and security situation, the international community should support her Government's efforts and help repatriate and resettle the refugees.

62. The adoption of several historic international agreements in 2015 and 2016 had provided an opportunity to rebuild the global humanitarian system. The forthcoming high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants would sustain the momentum and allow the Assembly to make an unequivocal pronouncement against xenophobia, particularly when directed against asylum seekers. The numbers of fatalities among refugees in transit in the Mediterranean Sea must be reduced as a matter of priority. She urged the Council to support the weak and vulnerable in a spirit of compassion and brotherhood.

63. **Mr. Bessler** (Switzerland) said that the commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit must be honoured through such existing processes as the humanitarian affairs segment, the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework, to avoid the establishment of a permanent body related to the Summit and the proliferation of discussion forums. Since 2012, his Government had supported such initiatives as Ground Truth Solutions, which worked with NGOs, United Nations agencies and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to put people at the heart of humanitarian operations. It would continue to uphold international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. By 2020, his Government would increase to 30 per cent the proportion of its funding provided as non-earmarked contributions, ensure that 25 per cent of its contributions benefited national and local organizations, and dedicate one sixth of its humanitarian budget to disaster risk reduction.

64. To ensure that humanitarian action complemented development and peacekeeping, its coordination must be examined and the consequences for existing initiatives must be applied. The report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit (A/70/709) would provide ways forward, and he encouraged Member States to address the matter in their discussions on the omnibus resolutions of the General Assembly. In the negotiations on the draft resolution, progress had been made on compliance with international humanitarian law, the protection of medical missions, education during crises, the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and the strengthening of support to national and local actors, while humanitarian access and the protection of civilians remained the greatest challenges.

65. **Mr. Lal** (India) said that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement gave hope that the international community would address the unparalleled size and frequency of humanitarian crises, while the Sendai Framework would reduce the impact of disasters through international cooperation. The

World Humanitarian Summit was another important initiative, and the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had done much to address humanitarian needs.

66. His Government had adopted a national disaster management plan that month. It had also provided relief and reconstruction assistance, from the immediate supply of relief materials to the emergency evacuation of large numbers of people, in neighbouring countries and further afield. The Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held by India and the aforementioned Inter-Agency Secretariat in New Delhi in November 2016, would be the first follow-up conference to the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in March 2015.

67. While the funding of emergency response was a challenge, long-term planning to build resilience was also needed. Many conflicts had become chronic because insufficient attention had been paid to them, including by the Security Council. National priorities must be respected in the provision of humanitarian assistance, which must build the capacity to address crises in the long term. The distinctions between the categories of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons should be maintained; international cooperation was required in the provision of assistance to refugees and migrants, who had moved across borders, whereas internally displaced persons were a national responsibility.

68. The humanitarian-development divide was another contentious issue. Humanitarian crises became unmanageable when the level of development and the capacity to rebuild were limited. Since development enabled countries to manage crises themselves, financing for development must remain the highest priority.

69. **Ms. Nazaire** (Observer for Haiti) said that 82 million people now required humanitarian assistance from the United Nations and its partners, and the cost of material damage had risen alarmingly. Although $19.9 billion had been requested through coordinated inter-institutional appeals, the desired response had not been forthcoming. The World Humanitarian Summit objective of restructuring the humanitarian system was essential for United Nations agencies and partners. The commitments made at the Summit would result in transformative initiatives in support of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Conventions and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

70. The discussions during the segment must help optimize emergency humanitarian action based on humanity, neutrality and independence. Haiti, which had suffered from structural weaknesses, poverty and natural disasters and had been a recipient of humanitarian assistance for many years, was ready to share lessons learned and best practices. It encouraged humanitarian initiatives intended to help the most vulnerable on the basis of ownership, partnership and local capacity-building.

71. Her delegation welcomed the proposals in the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/82-E/2016/60) to strengthen the financing of humanitarian assistance, in particular through the decentralization of resources; increase to 15 per cent the proportion of humanitarian appeal funding channelled through country-based pooled funds; find innovative financing mechanisms; and invest in high-risk areas to prevent and prepare for catastrophes and build resilience. Such new working methods as the Index for Risk Management, which was essential to humanitarian and development planning, were needed to reduce risks, needs and vulnerabilities and strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus in line with the post-2015 development agenda and the Sendai Framework. Her delegation welcomed progress in humanitarian coordination, in particular the zero-tolerance policy to sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers. The core responsibilities endorsed at the World Humanitarian Summit would ensure that no one was left behind in crises and would improve prevention and mitigation. The international community must honour its promise of human-centred, inclusive humanitarian action that transcended frontiers.

72. **Mr. Wenaweser** (Observer for Liechtenstein) said that the World Humanitarian Summit had not overcome all humanitarian challenges, but his delegation welcomed the "grand bargain" to ensure sufficient funding for humanitarian assistance. International solidarity through such assistance was a pillar of the foreign policy of Liechtenstein, whose per capita contributions were among the highest in the world. His Government attached particular importance to underfunded crises, which it addressed through the

Central Emergency Response Fund. Investment in humanity was a matter of enlightened self-interest, since humanitarian crises resulted in large-scale displacement and put pressure on many States, including developing countries. The provision of assistance reduced such movements, but much remained to be done to address the causes of conflict and displacement.

73. Non-compliance with international humanitarian law had reached alarming levels; attacks on medical facilities and staff, denial of humanitarian access and attacks on displaced civilians had become common in conflicts. The draft resolution had missed opportunities to encourage compliance, in particular by calling on parties to conflicts to refrain from using explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas. The failure of the Security Council to take decisive action to end war crimes undermined the standing of the United Nations, and 112 States had therefore approved a Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes. He called on States that had not yet done so to endorse the Code.

74. He welcomed the inclusion in the draft resolution of provisions on sexual and gender-based violence in conflict, which affected not only women and girls but also men and boys, and sometimes escalated to become war crimes or crimes against humanity. Women must not be stereotyped as victims; the international community must combat all forms of discrimination against them and empower them to claim their rights to justice, sexual and reproductive health and participation in decision-making, in line with the women, peace and security agenda and the 2030 Agenda.

75. The World Humanitarian Summit had shown that the international community could no longer accept massive violations of international humanitarian law, neglect the link between mass displacement and development, or deliver humanitarian assistance in a way that benefited the strongest more than the most vulnerable. The "grand bargain" was the first step; he invited Member States to join Liechtenstein on the steep path ahead.

76. **Mr. Seleka** (South Africa) said that the United Nations must ensure, through planning and coordination, that the transition from relief to early recovery and development was successful. The roles and responsibilities of stakeholders must be clear and supported by the requisite resources. Although the United Nations had adopted the Transformative Agenda, the priorities of international humanitarian aid did not in fact allow for transformation. The promise to provide such aid more quickly and accountably must be honoured, not only in disaster response but also in the strengthening of capacities and resilience. Humanitarian affairs should be given the same priority as peace and security, human rights and development: the existing pillars of the United Nations. His Government welcomed the core responsibilities set out in the Agenda for Humanity. Under the auspices of the African Union, it had shown political leadership in preventing and ending conflicts through mediation, contributed to peacekeeping in Africa and invested in post-conflict reconstruction in South Sudan and Comoros. Since underdevelopment was a cause of conflicts, the African Union had launched the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, chaired by South Africa, to accelerate regional infrastructure development.

77. Sub-Saharan Africa hosted vast numbers of forcibly displaced persons; his country, which received the largest share of asylum seekers, upheld the rights of such persons to freedom of residence, work and access to social services. As a responsible member of the international community, it contributed to the implementation of the Agenda for Humanity. It held annual regional seminars with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to increase respect for international humanitarian law and was at the forefront of the Health Care in Danger project, intended to improve the protection of health-care personnel, health facilities and patients, an area in which it had played an essential role at the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva in December 2015. It supported the call in the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement to focus on crisis prevention rather than management, a shift that would ultimately end the need for aid.

78. **Mr. Hilale** (Observer for Morocco) said that the world had been struck by a series of new crises involving conflict, climate change and the enforced displacement of persons. In 2015, there had been 346 natural disasters; 2.8 million additional internally displaced persons fleeing armed conflicts and acts of violence; and a record number of refugees worldwide.

The international community's multidimensional response went beyond crisis management and sought to bolster prevention, resilience and emergency readiness. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda; the Sendai Framework; the World Humanitarian Summit; and the forthcoming Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants were evidence of the international community's heightened awareness of those issues. As a result, the international community had the tools to address humanitarian crises. However, the proliferation of initiatives on enforced displacement might adversely affect the management of that problem.

79. The slogan "leaving no one behind" meant that all actors, including Member States, had to be involved. Unfortunately, the World Humanitarian Summit had been a victim of its own success given the multiple initiatives that had been launched within its framework. In spite of their lofty goals, those efforts had not been inclusive and would not achieve their goals without the endorsement and ownership of all Member States.

80. The principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence were key to delivering humanitarian aid. International humanitarian law required all parties to provide displaced persons with humanitarian assistance; enable humanitarian agents to reach affected persons and grant them freedom of movement; respect the fundamental rights of displaced persons; and refrain from using suffering as a political weapon.

81. Tangible efforts should be made by humanitarian actors to coordinate their activities and make funding more rational. First, however, there should be an accurate and objective assessment of the needs of the people affected by humanitarian crises. The effectiveness of humanitarian aid depended on access to those in need, who should be registered. Otherwise humanitarian aid could be misdirected and human rights violations could occur. Host countries and humanitarian actors, including those in the field, were primarily responsible for preventing the misuse of aid. Host countries should therefore fulfil their international obligations and grant access to affected persons so that they could be registered and their needs assessed. The delivery of aid and basic commodities should also be free and controlled.

82. The misappropriation of humanitarian aid was a serious violation of human rights and punishable under international law, since it affected not only refugees and displaced persons but also the donor community. Full accountability was therefore required in confirmed cases of misappropriation. His delegation condemned acts of aggression against humanitarian staff and obstacles to the fulfilment of their mission. Those staff deserved international protection, otherwise millions of lives would be lost.

83. **Mr. Salam** (Lebanon) said that in spite of increased humanitarian needs and suffering resulting from natural disasters, armed conflicts and terrorism, combined with shortfalls in funding, the United Nations system was broke but not broken. There had been many positive developments in recent months, such as the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the first ever World Humanitarian Summit, which had recognized the need to prevent and end conflicts; build peaceful and inclusive societies; uphold the norms that safeguarded humanity; ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law; protect civilians during armed conflicts; and guarantee the right to quality education. Concrete results were therefore needed.

84. For his Government, the top three priorities were the sharing of responsibilities in the response to humanitarian crises; development assistance for communities hosting large numbers of displaced persons and refugees; and the safe return of displaced persons and refugees to their countries of origin, with a special emphasis on political solutions and assistance with reconstruction efforts.

85. With 1.2 million refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic and over 400,000 Palestine refugees, his country had the highest rate of refugees per capita in the world, and was a living example of the challenges and threats to its very existence that a host country could face as a result of mass displacement. His country's plight was also an opportunity to reflect on the restoration of humanity and the quest to leave no one behind. The mass influx of refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic had overstretched his country's infrastructure, reduced housing capacity, increased unemployment, adversely affected economic activity and threatened security. His Government's crisis response plan was still underfunded by more than 60 per cent. International partners should support

Lebanon in providing humanitarian assistance and education, and by expanding economic opportunities.

86. **Ms. Stener** (Observer for Norway) said that the humanitarian system was under great pressure and the Norwegian Refugee Council had published figures showing that 65.3 million people had fled their homes in 2015. Conflicts and crises had increased humanitarian needs and hindered the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The World Humanitarian Summit had succeeded in raising awareness of the most pressing global challenges and that momentum needed to be maintained.

87. Future humanitarian needs should be reduced by addressing the root causes of conflict and investing in conflict prevention. A new cooperation framework was needed to address population movements resulting from forced displacement. Furthermore, greater and better support for education was needed during emergencies and protracted crises. Her country had already earmarked 8 per cent of its humanitarian assistance for education and had pledged $10 million to the Education Cannot Wait fund. The main priorities for her Government were safe schools and the protection of health care, and it welcomed the endorsement by 54 States of the Safe Schools Declaration in Oslo. Other States should follow suit. The use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas was a major cause of displacement.

88. Compliance with international humanitarian law was a major priority for her Government, which had reiterated its attachment to humanitarian principles during the World Humanitarian Summit. Her country had increased its humanitarian budget by 30 per cent compared with 2015, in addition to pledging 10 million Norwegian kroner over four years to address the Syrian refugee crisis. There was a need for stronger links between humanitarian assistance and long-term development efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. Success would be measured by the extent to which the needs of the most vulnerable, namely, children, persons with disabilities, women and girls, were met. It had been particularly encouraging that multilateral development banks had recognized the need to engage earlier, take risks and explore innovative financing mechanisms.

89. Her Government welcomed the "grand bargain" between donors and aid organizations, and advocated an inclusive and accountable follow-up. It was committed both to high levels of humanitarian aid and to quality funding. It would therefore continue to provide flexible multi-year funding to ensure a better linkage between humanitarian assistance and long-term development. Similarly, it would provide substantial support to the Central Emergency Response Fund and the country-based pooled funds of the United Nations. Her Government supported the call by the Secretary-General for a broader and deeper donor base, including through partnerships with the private sector and civil society. The World Humanitarian Summit had highlighted the potential for further innovation and her Government supported the use and coordination of cash-based programming. It would be important to build global ownership and the commitments and actions needed to respond to humanitarian needs and prevent future crises.

90. **Ms. Mendelson** (United States of America) said that the need for humanitarian assistance and protection had not been higher since the Second World War. While the current year had been one of challenges and tragedy, there was also a growing resolve to enhance the international community's capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies and an increasing recognition that new approaches were needed. With the conference of donors for the Syrian Arab Republic and the World Humanitarian Summit, the international community had made new commitments and was seeking solutions to the most pressing humanitarian challenges. It was time to build on that resolve and turn words into action. The priority was to protect civilians. The "grand bargain" should be advanced through a joint needs analysis; comprehensive humanitarian appeals; more coherent programming between humanitarian and development assistance; improved field leadership and coordination; greater accountability; an enhanced role for local responders; reduced management costs; multi-year planning and funding; reduced earmarking; and cash assistance where appropriate.

91. The forthcoming high-level plenary session of the General Assembly would be an opportunity to build on the World Humanitarian Summit and the accomplishments of the Economic and Social Council. That session should affirm the principle of responsibility-sharing and the commitment of States to protecting refugees and internally displaced persons, in particular through the re-establishment of the post of special representative of the Secretary-General in that

area; enhance international cooperation on migration and provide humanitarian assistance for migrants who did not qualify as refugees, including victims of human trafficking; and reinforce the key commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit. It was equally important to recognize the vital role of non-governmental partners in supporting refugees and migrants. They delivered life-saving assistance. Civil society participation would ensure that the high-level plenary session was as robust and inclusive as possible.

92. As a complement to the high-level plenary session, President Obama would co-host the Leaders' Summit on Refugees on the margins of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly. The hope was that humanitarian financing would be increased by 30 per cent in 2016; the number of resettled refugees would be doubled; the number of refugees with the right to work would be increased by 1 million; and the number of refugee children enrolled in school would also be increased by 1 million. Her Government would continue to work with international partners to find solutions that would alleviate the suffering of millions of people worldwide.

93. **Mr. Sareer** (Observer for Maldives) said that his delegation supported the Secretary-General's call for greater efforts to prevent crises and reduce needs, risk and vulnerability over time. There were 5 million more refugees, displaced persons and asylum seekers than one year previously. Furthermore, increasingly frequent and intense natural disasters had wiped away years of development in a matter of seconds. Protracted crises had become the new normal. Collective action and determination at the highest political level were essential, and should build on the political momentum created by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and by the World Humanitarian Summit.

94. Without a political commitment to addressing the root causes of conflict, sustainable conflict resolution strategies would not bear fruit. Those strategies should be long-term and use political leverage to address long-standing grievances and discrimination at all stages of a conflict cycle, otherwise conflicts would re-emerge and prolong suffering.

95. Climate change would increase the frequency and intensity of natural disasters. His country was one of the world's smallest and lowest-lying countries with a population spread over 187 geographically dispersed islands. It was therefore uniquely vulnerable to environmental disasters. In addition to the socioeconomic damage caused by such disasters, his country had suffered from soil erosion and damage to its thin layer of fresh water. His Government had therefore mainstreamed environmental sustainability and protection into the national development planning process.

96. A strong framework built on the reduction of humanitarian needs, disaster preparedness, risk reduction and conflict prevention was essential for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. His Government recognized that increasing resilience required a people-centred long-term development strategy aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Without sustainable development there could not be sustainable peace. The Secretary-General's Climate Resilience Initiative: Anticipate, Absorb, Reshape was targeted at vulnerable countries such as his. Member States and stakeholders should help vulnerable communities to strengthen their ability to anticipate hazards, absorb shocks and reshape development to reduce climate risks. His country would do its part in building resilience to disasters and humanitarian crises. However, as a small island developing State, it needed the financial, technical and capacity support of the international community to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and ensure that no one was left behind.

97. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that, in the first year of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the protection of humanity must be achieved through coordinated action. In particular, emergency humanitarian assistance was highly time-specific and remained in high demand owing to increased natural disasters, armed conflicts and protracted crises. Climate change, population growth, unplanned urbanization, and financial and food crises threatened developing countries and had drawn attention to the international humanitarian situation. Member States and humanitarian actors were considering a paradigm shift from emergency response to resilience-building, with the support of his Government. However, trust should be built and due consideration given to the context of affected countries and communities. Consequently, international humanitarian assistance must follow the principles established by General Assembly resolution 46/182.

98. Poverty and underdevelopment were having an adverse impact on the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, which had also been affected by inequalities

within and between nations. Development was the best way to prevent many crises. The United Nations system and the international community should therefore strengthen cooperation and coordination between humanitarian actors to ensure a faster, more timely and more targeted humanitarian response.

99. There was no alternative to strengthening capacity-building at the national and local levels. Many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, still faced severe constraints in terms of their financing, technology and development capacities. The international community should therefore increase its financial and technical assistance, and share expertise and technology, to boost the disaster-risk management capacity of developing countries.

100. His country had made numerous contributions in the humanitarian field, for example in the aftermath of the Nepal and Haiti earthquakes. Some Bangladesh-based NGOs were active in the areas of microfinance, agricultural development, and women's and adolescent empowerment in Haiti. The Bangladesh-based International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research had also sent experts to Haiti. In addition, his Government had contributed $1 million in humanitarian assistance for the victims of a 2013 typhoon in the Philippines.

101. His country had been one of the hardest hit by natural disasters and was one of the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. His Government had incorporated international ideas and practice into its disaster prevention, mitigation and relief efforts, and had also developed its own practices. It was willing to share its expertise with other countries.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.